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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SNM-05 DEAE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CTME-00 /046 W
----------016458 110612Z /11
R 091131Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2261
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2983

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, NP, UN
SUBJECT: UNFDAC/NEPAL PROJECT PROCEEDS SLOWLY

REF: A) KATHMANDU 2731, B) GENEVA 7954

1. UNFDAC REP, VERHAGEN, AND TECHNICAL EXPERT, DR. JOLLY, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFF JUNE 5 FOR WRAP-UP DISCUSSION ON THEIR MISSION AS VERHAGEN HAD PROMISED REF A. DR. JOLLY REPORTED THAT FROM TECHNICAL ASPECT MISSION HAD GONE WELL. THEY HAD VISITED DISTRICT PROPOSED BY GON AS SITE FOR FIRST EXPERIMENT AND HAD FOUND IT FULLY ACCEPTABLE -- I.E. EARLIER CONCERNS EXPRESSED REFTEL HAD DISAPPEARED. BUT ON POLICY SIDE, VERHAGEN'S REPORT WAS QUITE DIFFERENT. HE MINCED NO WORDS RE HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH RESULTS OF HIS TWO WEEK STAY AND EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT PROJECT WOULD EVER GET OFF GROUND. VERHAGEN'S FRUSTRATIONS INVOLVED BOTH UNDP AND GON. HE FELT FORMER HAD DONE LITTLE IF ANYTHING TO PREPARE FOR HIS MISSION. MOREOVER, BOTH ORGANIZATIONS HAD PRECONCEPTION OF HIS PROJECT AS AGRICULTURAL/ RURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT -- INCOME SUBSTITUTION THROUGH INTRODUCTION OF NEW CROP -- AND HAD NOT FOCUSED ON DRUG CONTROL ASPECTS. AS SOON AS VERHAGEN POINTED OUT THAT NON-MULBERRY SILK OPERATION
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WAS ONLY ONE OF THREE PRONGS IN PROJECT PROPOSAL -- OTHER TWO INVOLVING LEGISLATION AND TRAINING AS NOTED REFTELS -- HE QUICKLY FOUND HIS AUDIENCE LOOSING INTEREST OR ACCUSING HIM OF INTRODUCING UNEXPECTED NEW ELEMENTS. EVENTUALLY, VERHAGEN FELT HE GOT HIS POINT ACROSS TO UNDP AND OBTAINED ITS ACTIVE SUPPORT, BUT HOME AND PANCHAYAT MINISTRY,

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WHERE GON'S DRUG CONTROL MECHANISM RESTS, CONTINUED PRESENT STONE WALL. EVENTUALLY IT WAS AGREED THAT REPS OF RESPONSIBLE MINISTRIES AND UNDP WOULD MEET JUNE 6 TO CONSIDER UNFDAC PROJECT. VERHAGEN HAD SO LITTLE HOPE FOR POSITIVE RESULTS FROM THAT MEETING THAT HE WAS ONLY PERSUADED WITH DIFFICULTY TO DELAY HIS DEPARTURE TO PERMIT HIS ATTENDANCE. RESULTS PROVED HIS PESSIMISM WELL FOUNDED -- GON REPS, WHILE NOT OFFICIALLY REJECTING PROJECT, MADE IT CLEAR IT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS IT STOOD. PRIMARY OBJECTION WAS OVER CALL IN PROJECT PAPER FOR NEPAL TO BECOME PARTY TO SINGLE CONVENTION AT AN EARLY DATE. UNDP REP TOLD EMBOFF THAT IT WAS HIS VIEW THAT ONLY IF SUBSTANTIALLY REVISED WOULD PROJECT PROPOSAL HAVE CHANCE FOR FUTURE ACCEPTANCE.

2. COMMENT: VERHAGEN HAS NOW BEEN EXPOSED TO WAY THINGS ARE HERE IN NEPAL. PARTICULARLY DEALING WITH ISSUE, SUCH AS NARCOTICS, THAT HAS NOT YET HAD MAJOR LOCAL IMPACT, THINGS MOVE SLOWLY. AND FACT IS, EVEN WHEN PRIORITIES ARE HIGHER, PACE OF PROGRESS CAN BE DISCOURAGING. EMBASSY HAD MADE THIS POINT TO VERHAGEN AND HOPES MISSION GENEVA WILL DO LIKEWISE AT UNFDAC HEADQUARTERS. LACK OF SUCCESS NOW DOES NOT MEAN ALL IS LOST. UNDP IS APPARENTLY GOING TO URGE THAT PROJECT PROPOSAL BE AMENDED TO ELIMINATE EFFORTS TO GET NEPAL
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TO ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AT THIS TIME. WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE WORTH TRY. WE ARE NOT DENIGRATING THESE CONVENTIONS, BUT IF GON WOULD AGREE TO ACCEPT UN HELP IN BEEFING UP ITS OWN INTERNAL LEGISLATION AND TRAINING ITS ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL (BOTH ELEMENTS OF PROPOSAL), PROJECT WOULD MAINTAIN STRONG AND IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF INTEGRATED APPROACH. AND CONVENTIONS COULD BE LEFT TILL LATER. EVEN IF UNFDAC CHOOSES NOT TO MAKE SUCH MODIFICATION AT THIS TIME, VERHAGEN'S TRIP SHOULD STILL BE VIEWED AS USEFUL -- AS PART OF STEADY PRESSURE ON VARIOUS FRONTS OF NARCOTICS ISSUE. JUST AS WE HAVE CONTINUED TO OFFER TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR NEPALESE POLICE DESPITE LACK OF STARTLING RESULTS, WE TRUST UNFDAC WILL KEEP UP GOOD FIGHT, SETTING ITS SIGHTS FOR LONG RANGE RATHER THAN IMMEDIATE SUCCESS.
HECK

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